

# Notre Dame Parish

Cresco, Iowa

St. Agnes Oratory, Plymouth Rock and St. Bridget Oratory, Bluffton

*"My soul proclaims  
the greatness of  
the Lord:*

*my spirit rejoices  
in God my savior."*

Luke 1.46-47



## Rev. Jacob Rouse Pastor

Notre Dame Church  
223 2nd Ave. E.

Parish Office:

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
116 East Third Street  
Phone: 563 547-3565  
Fax: 563 547-3835  
Hall: 563 547-4652

Parish Website:  
[notredamecresco.com](http://notredamecresco.com)

**Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass**  
**Livestreamed at:**

<https://youtube.com/@notredamecresco>

Jodi Dull, Business Manager  
Mindy Jones, Bookkeeper  
Connie Frana, Office Manager  
Melanie Vobr,  
Coordinator of Faith Formation  
LeRoy Webb, Pastoral Minister  
Katie Schmitt, Principal  
563 547-4513

School Website: [https://  
sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/  
ndschoo/home?authuser=0](https://sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/ndschoo/home?authuser=0)

### *Celebration of Sacraments*

**Baptism** Please contact the parish office to register for the required Baptism class, to schedule a Baptism or for more information. Next Baptism preparation class is scheduled for **Feb. 13, 2023**, 7:00 p.m. (Note date is subject to change).

**Reconciliation** Contact the parish office to schedule an appointment to celebrate this Sacrament of God's forgiveness.

**Marriage** Contact the parish office at least six months before intended wedding date.

*December 11, 2022*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

There are still those in our world today who are confused about what kind of Savior is Jesus Christ. John the Baptist was the last of the old covenant prophets—one who seemed to have lots of fire and brimstone in his rhetoric. Last week we noted images of sorting of wheat and chaff (the chaff to be burned); of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire.

When John found himself in prison for his fiery outspokenness, he sent to ask Jesus, "Are you 'He Who is to come' or do we look for another?" And Jesus' reply is very instructive for us Advent disciples: "report to John what you see and hear—the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them." One could paraphrase this by saying that those who were without hope now have hope.

In the person of Jesus that reality began to break into the world. In the persons of Jesus' disciples—ourselves—that reality must continue to be present in the world. We now incarnate what Jesus began over 2000 years ago: the fire of compassion and hope must burn brightly in and through us for all to see and hear. In this way all people come to know God's coming to us in the man, Jesus Christ.

*Next week's readings:*

*Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, pray for us.*

**Monday, Dec. 12 No Mass—Pray for vocations.**

**Tuesday, Dec. 13**

**5:15 p.m.** +Maxine Herold

**Sacristan:** Stan and Connie Kepros

**Wednesday, Dec. 14 Mass**

**8:00 a.m.** +Art and Lois Svestka

**Music:** Jed Becker

**Sacristan:** Jed and Joyce Becker

**Thursday Dec. 15 Mass**

**9:00 a.m.** +Zach Stapelkamp

**Sacristan:** Inez Kruse

**2:00 p.m. Mass at Accura** +Joan Carolan

**Friday, Dec. 16**

**8:00 a.m.** +Tom Gebel

**Sacristan:** Jerry and Barb O'Donnell

**Saturday, Dec. 17 Mass in church and livestreamed**

**3:00 p.m.** Cantata choir presenting A CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS by Benjamin Harlan

**4:00 p.m.** +Orvie and Fran Herold; Randy Bacchus III; Zach Stapelkamp

**EMHCs:** Lisa Kimball, Mary Larson, Vicki McGee

**Lector:** Mary Larson

**Servers:** Leah Henkes, Brynlie Hvitved

**Music:** Good News Singers, Deb Moellers

**Greeters:** Melvin and Mardell Sobolik

**Hosts:** Melvin and Mardell Sobolik

**Ushers:** Gretchen Laub, Carver Munkel, Dave and Robin Sobolik

**Sacristan:** Harlan and Mary Larson

**Sunday, Dec. 12 Mass**

**8:00 a.m.** +Dell and Monica Reicks

**EMHCs:** Julie Haskovec, Jim Truka, Joyce Jirak

**Lectors:** Roger Kleve, Jim Truka

**Servers:** Lincoln and Brooks Manske

**Music:** Katie Ferrie, Wendy Schatz

**Greeters:** Roger and Elaine Kleve

**Hosts:** Jim and Lori Truka

**Ushers:** Dale Lickteig, Tom Mullen, Richard Neubauer, Tony Roberts

**Sacristan:** Marvin Lensing

**10:00 a.m. Mass** +Vern and Bernice Walker

**EMHCs:** Jessica Kapler, Jed and Joyce Becker

**Lectors:** Kayla Head, Jed Becker

**Servers:** Carley Kapler, Addison Bohr

**Music:** Joe Wacha, Wendy Schatz

**Greeters:** Jerry Wilson

**Hosts:** Curtis Head Family

**Ushers:** Jerry Wilson, Richard McConnell, Matt Daley Family

**Sacristan:** Jessica Kapler

*Lord Jesus, help me to rely upon your wisdom so that I can remain faithful to you."*

**Christmas Ornaments** sold by St. Mark's Circle are available in the front entrance of the church. If you ordered an ornament, it will have your name on it. If you would like an ornament, they are available following 8 and 10 mass this weekend and 8 mass next weekend and at the parish office during the week.

**In Memory**

**Deanne Webb**

**Sanctuary Candle**

**Edith Bigalk**

**Altar Bread**

**Lillian Dusheck**

**Altar Wine**

**Larry Voves**

**Missalettes (Dec.)**

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**Stewardship of Prayer**

*Please pray for the sick of our parish, including the following and those listed in the Book of Petitions.*

Parker Byrnes

Dianne Kovarik

Makiah Pierce

Dean Dietzenbach

Tom Rouchka

JoDene Van Dyke

Arlene Kuennen

Joyce Kapler

Don Neubauer

Bill Smith

Ann Burgess

Frances Kovarik Langham

Paul Pepera

Marian Wiltgen

Magnus Rudlong

John Gossman

Paula Growden

Pat Smith

Randy Smith

Beverly Koshatka

Janice Ries

Lavon Hyberger

Liz Yount

Brenda Anding

Tom Kleve

Monica Newman

Giorgio Gugliemino

Richard Neubauer

Shelly McAllister

Ethan Pepera

Brent Newman

Gene McCormick

**Our sympathy. . .**

*Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **Dorothy Barnes**; and **Jim Kuhn**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

*We are pleased to pray for the sick, if you would like to add a name, please call the parish office after receiving permission from the person to have their name published; however, to preserve space if a person has sufficiently recovered and can be removed from the prayer list, also please contact the parish office. **Ministry of Prayer Network:** If you would like to serve on this Prayer Network, please email the office at: [DBQ047S1@dbqarch.org](mailto:DBQ047S1@dbqarch.org). When a request is received, you will receive an email asking for your prayers for the immediate need. If you have an urgent need for prayer, call the office at 563 547-3565 to activate the prayer network.*

**Stewardship of Offering**

**December 4, 2022**

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week: \$ 10,750.00

Last week's Envelope Contribution Income: \$ 14,632.49

Last week's ACH Contribution Income: \$ 657.00

Last week's offertory income: \$ 615.00

*Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?*

**Scrip Program includes Dollar Fresh, HyVee, Pinter's, Ruppert's Ace Hardware, Fareway, Fisk's, Subway, Casey's, A & W, Long John Silvers, Sue-Z-Q, Atomic Pizza and Kwik Star.** Cards are available at the parish office and in the church the weekends of **Dec. 10-11; 17-18.**

**2023 Budget Envelopes and Calendars** are available in the elevator lobby. Please pick up your envelope to save the parish the cost of mailing. If you contribute through ACH, Gifts of Grain, or through an IRA distribution, you do not have a box of envelopes. If you would like a box, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

**2023 Circles of Faith Booklets** are available on the parish website. If you do not have access to the internet or wish to have a printed copy of pertinent pages, please contact the parish office. *Circles of Faith changes for 2023:* Dues have been raised to \$40—if you work or donate food for your circle's project, you are asked to donate \$20. If you work and donate food for the project, you do not need to donate any dues. Also, church hall rent has been raised to \$50 for use of the hall and the coffee maker; \$100 if you use the hall and limited use of the kitchen (light lunch brought in); and \$125 if you use the hall and prepare a meal in the kitchen. A deposit equal to the rent is required prior to using the hall. This deposit will be returned after the event if the hall is left in satisfactory condition. Insurance requirements must also be met prior to renting the hall. Please contact the parish office for more information or if you would like to rent the hall.

**Cornerstone Team Retreat** on Sun., Dec. 11, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., Notre Dame Church Hall.

**Circles of Faith** will meet on Mon., Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m., Joseph Room.

**Notre Dame School Christmas Program** will be held on Tues., Dec. 13 in the church at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**Faith Formation Commission** will meet on Thurs., Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.

**Wee Families** will meet on Sun., Dec. 18, 4:30 p.m. Notre Dame Church. Short and sweet faith formation for young families. Ideal for children ages 1-5. Milk and cookies following.

**Into the Deep** will meet on Sun., Dec. 18, 7:00 p.m. Notre Dame Church. This month's theme: *"What role do women play in the church?"*

**Christmas Flowers** Donations are being accepted for Christmas Flowers. Please put your donation in an envelope designated for Christmas flowers with your name and the name(s) of those you wish to remember. Thank you.

**One of the greatest gifts we can share is the gift of faith.** Join other members of our parish to form an RCIA Team to share our faith with those inquiring into the Catholic Church. Please call Fr. Jacob or Melanie at the parish office at 563 547-3565 for more details about training for this rewarding ministry experience.

**Only a few weeks remain to donate to the STO and receive your 2022 75% Iowa income tax credit!** For every dollar you donate to support the STO and Catholic education, you receive 75% back in an Iowa income tax credit. Check with your tax professional. Don't wait, as tax credits for 2022 are only available until Dec. 31. Help Catholic school families with tuition assistance and help yourself to a tax credit. For questions, visit [www.ourfaithsto.org](http://www.ourfaithsto.org) or contact Our Faith STO at 563 556-2580, ext. 296.

#### **Thank You**

*We are grateful for all the volunteers who offer their time and talent as good stewards for the betterment of the parish. This week we thank the Cornerstone catechists and aides.*

**Thank You** to all who donated cookies for the cookie plates for the shut-ins of our parish.

**Youth Christmas Choir** All school aged children and teens are welcome to sing in the Youth Choir at 8:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day. Practices will be held for 30 minutes on Dec. 12 and Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

**Decorating Church for Christmas** will be done on Sun., Dec. 18, immediately following 10:00 a.m. mass. Your help will be appreciated!

**Football Mania** Thank you to all who are participating in the Notre Dame School Fundraiser. Week 4 Winners: Neil Grube, \$25; Ricky Woods, \$25; and Gayleen Moellers, \$25.00.

**Notre Dame School Lunch has an opening for a Cook**, Monday through Friday while school is in session. 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please call 563 547-3565 to apply or for more information.

**Notre Dame School Kid's Club** needs help, 3:00—5:30 p.m. when school is in session. To apply or for more information, call Katie Schmitt at 563 547-4513.

**Thank you** to everyone who donated produce and/or purchased produce through the Table of Plenty—\$165 cash was donated to the local food pantry from the Table of Plenty.

**Help Aging Religious.** Senior Sisters, Brothers and Religious Order Priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service and works of mercy, Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please give generously.

**VFW Breakfast** will be served Dec. 18, 8:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, Cresco. Free will offering. Menu: Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs and Beverage. Proceeds to be used for all local VFW Functions. Sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 4561.

**Communal Reconciliation** at St. Aloysius Church, Calmar, Sun., Dec. 11, 1:30 p.m.

**Lidtko Mill Bingo** Monday nights 6:30-9:30 p.m. Food available. Family, Fun & Fitness, Lime Springs.

**Knights of Columbus Council #1571 "NEWS FLASH"!!** The embership online promotion to join us for free the first year is going to continue. Visit [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) using promo code BLESSEDMC-GIVNEY Questions, call 563 581-2239.

**Mental Health Awareness During the Holidays** Holidays are often difficult for people who are experiencing grief and other major life disruptions. The sounds, sights, and smells of the holiday season may trigger feelings of sadness, loss, emptiness, and anxiety. Counseling may be an option for those who are struggling to cope. **Catholic Charities offers in-person and telehealth counseling with licensed mental health professionals in English and Spanish.** For more information on counseling at Catholic Charities or to schedule your first appointment, please call [563.588.0558](tel:563.588.0558) or visit [CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org/counseling](http://CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org/counseling).

**The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is a federally-funded program designed to assist low-income families to meet the cost of home heating. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis from through-April 30. Visit your local community action outreach office to apply for this and other programs.

#### **Advent Reflection**

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours.

Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

# Retirement Fund for Religious



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

**Elderly religious need your help.** Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. Please give generously.

*Standing, from left: Fr. William Graham, OFM Cap, 75; Sr. Mary Lucille Stelly, SSF, 89; Sr. Angele Marie Sadlier, O Carm, 91; Fr. Bertrand Ebben, OP, 90.*

*Seated, from left: Sr. Joan Flores, SSF, 81; Sr. Denis Rodrigue, O Carm, 93; Sr. Ann Martinez, MSC, 82.*

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

**To give at your parish:** Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

**To donate by mail:** Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

**Amount:**  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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